

Belli Eyes Sirhan Case

TUCSON, Ariz. — (UPI) — The attorney who defended Jack Ruby for killing President John F. Kennedy's assassin says he may handle the appeal for the man convicted of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Melvin Belli of San Francisco announced that he had been invited to handle Sirhan B. Sirhan's appeal of his murder conviction in the death of the late president's brother last June 5.

"They've (Sirhan's family) contacted me before," he said. "They want me to do the appeal."

However, Sirhan's mother, Mary, said in Pasadena, Calif., "I can't comment (on Belli's statement) because I don't know that much about it."

And Sirhan's chief defense counsel, Grant Cooper, said he knew nothing about Belli entering the case.

Sirhan was sentenced to the gas chamber last April 23 by the same five-woman, seven-man Los Angeles jury that earlier convicted him of first degree murder in the killing of Kennedy.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth

Hahn reported that Sirhan's trial cost county taxpayers \$929,283.

"Any appeals will add to

the expense," he added.

Sirhan, a 25-year-old Palestinian Arab, is due to be sentenced formally May 21.